

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PER-01 CPR-01 SSC-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05 IGA-02 EB-07 TRSE-00 OMB-01

IO-13 EA-07 ACDA-07 /100 W
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R 291501Z OCT 76

FM AMEMBASSY KIGALI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4329

C O N F I D E N T I A L KIGALI 805

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PDIP, RW, US

SUBJECT: PRESENTATION OF CREDENTIALS AND CONVERSATION WITH THE
PRESIDENT

1. WITH INFORMALITY WHICH IS CUSTOMARY HERE, I PRESENTED
LETTERS OF CREDENCE AND RECALL THIS MORNING AT 1000 A.M.
TO PRESIDENT HABYARIMANA. NO SPEECHES WERE MADE. INSTEAD,
WITH MINISTER OF PLAN, SECGENS OF PRESIDENCY AND
FOREIGN MINISTRY, AND DCM PRESENT, WE SAT DOWN FOR FRIENDLY
AND INFORMAL DISCUSSION OF US/RWANDAN RELATIONS AND LARGER
INTERNATIONAL ISSUES WHICH LASTED FOR ABOUT 20 MINUTES.
HIGHLIGHTS FOLLOW:

(A) ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE - HABYARIMANA EXPRESSED APPRE-
CIATION FOR INCREASES IN AID LEVELS OVER PAST FEW YEARS.
SAID HE RECOGNIZED THERE WAS A LIMIT TO WHAT U.S. COULD DO
FOR RWANDA, AND HE DID NOT EXPECT IT TO "PAY THE WHOLE BILL".
NEVERTHELESS, U.S. AS WORLD'S RICHEST NATION, COULD DO MORE
THAN IT WAS FOR RWANDA, ONE OF THE WORLD'S POOREST. SAID HE
HOPED I WOULD CONSIDER IT MY PRINCIPAL MISSION TO FIND WAYS
OF INCREASING EVEN FURTHER OUR LEVEL OF COOPERATION. IN REPLY
I STRESSED OUR SATISFACTION AT RWANDA'S OWN EFFORTS
AT SELF-HELP AND MY HOPE THAT U.S. CONTRIBUTION WOULD BE
CATALYST IN THIS LARGER CONTEXT. I ASSURED HIM NEVERTHE-
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LESS I SHARED HOPE OF SEEING U.S. CONTRIBUTION, ALREADY

SIGNIFICANT, CONTINUE TO RISE.

(B) SOUTH AFRICA - EXPRESSING BELIEF (WIDELY PRE-VALENT HERE) THAT GENEVA TALKS ON RHODESIA WERE ALREADY ON BRINK OF FAILURE, PRESIDENT ASKED ME IF IT WERE U.S. INTENTION TO ABANDON THOSE NEGOTIATIONS. I REMARKED TO THE PRESIDENT THAT AT MY SWEARING-IN I HAD NOTED MY GOOD FORTUNE IN COMING TO AFRICA AT A MOMENT WHEN U.S. GOVERNMENT HAD MADE SUCH A POSITIVE CONTRIBUTION TO PEACEFUL RHODESIAN SOLUTION, AND HABYARIMANA WARMLY AGREED THIS WAS SO. I ADDED OUR VIEW WAS THAT IT WAS NOW UP TO DIRECTLY INTERESTED PARTIES TO TRY TO HAMMER OUT A SOLUTION IN GENEVA. U.S. HOPED TO REMAIN ON SIDELINES, KEENLY INTERESTED, BUT NOT DISPOSED TO MEDDLE UNLESS PARTIES SO DESIRED.

(C) KOREA - PRESIDENT NOTED THAT NORTH KOREAN MILITARY DELEGATION, HEADED BY DEPUTY DEFENSE MINISTER, HAD COME TO KIGALI FOR ARMED FORCES DAY CELEBRATION, OCT 26. IN CONVERSATION WITH DELEGATION MEMBERS, HE HAD BEEN TOLD THAT DPRK DESIRED NEGOTIATIONS AIMED AT REUNIFICATION BUT THAT ROK, AT OUR OWN INSISTENCE, REFUSED TO ENTER INTO NEGOTIATIONS. PRESIDENT SAID HE WANTED VERY MUCH TO KNOW OUR OWN POSITION. I OUTLINED THIS BRIEFLY AND PROMISED TO PROVIDE MORE DETAILS BY AIDE MEMOIRE. (SIMILAR QUESTIONS ON THIS TOPIC OF EXTRAORDINARY LOCAL INTEREST WERE POSED IN MY INTERVIEW WITH RADIO RWANDA FOLLOWING CEREMONY).

(C) RWANDAN SECURITY - WITHOUT MAKING ANY SPECIAL PITCH FOR U.S. AID, PRESIDENT NOTED THAT SOVIET UNION HAS BEEN ACTIVELY STRENGTHENING MILITARY TIES WITH RWANDA'S NEIGHBORS, SPECIFICALLY INCLUDING UGANDA. HE SAID INCREASING SOVIET ARMS SUPPLIES TO THESE COUNTRIES WAS SOURCE OF ACUTE CONCERN TO RWANDA, ADDING HE HOPED U.S. WOULD NOT OVERLOOK SECURITY IMPLICATIONS FOR ITS FRIENDS IN RWANDA. I MADE NO SPECIFIC COMMENT ON THIS POINT.

2. TONE OF MY FIRST MEETING WITH PRESIDENT HABYARIMANA WAS EXTREMELY ENCOURAGING TO ME. HE WAS CORDIAL WITHOUT BEING EFFUSIVE, ASSURING ME IN PARTICULAR OF HIS KEEN INTEREST IN KNOWING AND WHERE POSSIBLE SUPPORTING U.S. POSITIONS ON INTERNATIONAL ISSUES AS THEY ARISE AT U.N. AND ELSEWHERE, AND ENCOURAGING ME TO COME DIRECTLY TO HIM WITH ANY MATTER I CONSIDERED IMPORTANT. I BELIEVE WE GOT OFF TO A GOOD
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START.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CREDENTIALS PRESENTATION, FOREIGN RELATIONS, SPHERE OF INFLUENCE, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 29 OCT 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976KIGALI00805
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760404-0702
From: KIGALI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t1976105/aaaaadzi.tel
Line Count: 109
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 11 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <11 MAY 2004 by greeneet>; APPROVED <12 MAY 2004 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRESENTATION OF CREDENTIALS AND CONVERSATION WITH THE PRESIDENT
TAGS: PDIP, RW, US, UR, (HABYARIMANA, JUVENAL)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006